

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 06217 01 OF 02 072057Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /076 W
-----072129Z 108354 /44

R 071838Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7274
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06217

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PL, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN/POLISH RELATIONS

REF: BONN 4726

1. THE CONCERN IN THE FONOFF OVER THE POOR STATE OF
RELATIONS WITH POLAND HAS ABATED SOMEWHAT IN THE PAST
FEW WEEKS, BUT IT STILL PERSISTS. THE
FRG HAS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO EASE THE SITUA-
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PAGE 02 BONN 06217 01 OF 02 072057Z

-- CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S INTERVIEW IN POLITYKA OF
MARCH 17 (REFTEL), IN WHICH HE MADE CLEAR HIS INTENTION
AND DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH POLAND.

-- POLISH AMBASSADOR PIATKOWSKI AND HIS CHIEF AIDES
WERE SUMMONED TO BOTH THE CHANCELLERY AND THE FOREIGN
OFFICE AND TOLD TO START DOING THEIR JOB. FRG OFFICIALS

POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT ALL TYPES OF COMMENTARY COULD BE FOUND IN THE GERMAN PRESS, AS IS IN ANY COUNTRY WITH A FREE PRESS, AND IT IS THE EMBASSY'S DUTY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN WHAT IS IMPORTANT AND WHAT IS NOT IMPORTANT AND TO ADVISE ITS GOVERNMENT.

-- IN RESPONSE TO A POLISH COMPLAINT (ALSO MADE RECENTLY BY ROMANIA), THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN PREPARATIONS TO CHANGE THE DOCUMENTATION OF EMIGRES FROM POLAND AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. THESE EMIGRES HAVE BEEN DOCUMENTED AS EXPELLEES (VERTRIEBENEN) SO THAT THEY COULD OBTAIN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT BENEFITS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE PUBLIC ITS INTENTION TO CHANGE THE LAW SO THAT THE EMIGRES CAN BE DOCUMENTED IN ANOTHER MANNER AND STILL RECEIVE THE BENEFITS.

2. THE RECEPTION GIVEN BY GIEREK TO DEPARTING FRG AMBASSADOR RUETE IN WARSAW, THE POSITIVE TONE OF THE MEETING, AND THE WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT IN THE GERMAN PRESS HAS ALSO HELPED TO DEFUSE THE ATMOSPHERE.

3. NEVERTHELESS, FONOFF SOURCES NOTE THAT THE ANTI-GERMAN TONE OF THE POLISH PRESS CONTINUES, EVEN IF IN A LESS STRIDENT MANNER. ADDITIONALLY, POLISH OFFICIALS ARE CONTINUING TO MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES; INSISTING ON CHANGING GERMAN NAMES OF CITIES AND LOCALITIES WHICH ARE LOCATED IN

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PAGE 03 BONN 06217 01 OF 02 072057Z

POLAND TO POLISH NAMES IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS REGARDLESS OF THE DATE OF THE DOCUMENT. THE POLES HAVE ALSO SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE FRG FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCHOOLBOOK COMMISSION. THEY HAVE THREATENED NOT TO CARRY OUT THE YOUTH EXCHANGES AGREED TO DURING THE GIEREK VISIT UNTIL THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED. GERMAN OFFICIALS FEEL THAT THE POLISH CRITICISM IS UNFAIR GIVEN THE RATHER STRENUOUS EFFORTS THAT SCHMIDT AND OTHER FEDERAL OFFICIALS HAVE MADE TO GET THE RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE LAENDER, WHO CONTROL THE SCHOOLBOOKS' CONTENTS.

4. FONOFF SOURCES TELL US THAT THE POLES ARE PRESSING FOR A VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TO WARSAW. THEY HAVE PROPOSED THAT GENSCHER COME AT THE END OF JUNE OR THE BEGINNING OF JULY. THE EASTERN EUROPEAN OFFICE HAS RECOMMENDED THE VISIT TO GENSCHER, BUT SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN

GAINING HIS ACCEPTANCE OF SPECIFIC DATES. IT IS LIKELY,
HOWEVER, THAT GENSCHER WILL ACCEDE TO THE POLISH REQUEST
BECAUSE OF ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF
RELATIONS.

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PAGE 01 BONN 06217 02 OF 02 072053Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06217

5. IF GENSCHER DOES VISIT WARSAW, HIS CENTRAL TASK
WILL BE TO PREPARE FOR A VISIT BY CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT,
WHICH WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED DURING THE GIEREK VISIT
LAST YEAR TO TAKE PLACE IN THE FALL OF 1977. ANOTHER
PURPOSE OF THE GENSCHER VISIT WOULD BE TO DEMONSTRATE
CONTINUITY IN POLISH/GERMAN RELATIONS. GENSCHER WILL
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VISIT TO CONCLUDE ANY PENDING
BILATERAL BUSINESS. ONE POSSIBILITY HERE IS AN

EXCHANGE OF SITES FOR NEW EMBASSIES. ONE OTHER PURPOSE
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PAGE 02 BONN 06217 02 OF 02 072053Z

OF THE VISIT WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN SOMEWHAT OF A BALANCE
BETWEEN SPD AND FDP VISITS TO POLAND.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, THE SPD IS WORKING ON THE SCHEDULE
FOR A VISIT BY EDWARD BABIUCH TO THE FRG AT THE END OF
MAY. BABIUCH WILL HEAD A JOINT PARTY/SEJM DELEGATION
TO THE FRG. HIS VISIT WILL BE IN RETURN FOR A
PARLIAMENTARY VISIT HEADED BY BRUNO FRIEDRICH LAST
JANUARY. NO PROGRAM FOR BABIUCH HAS YET BEEN ARRANGED
IN THE FONOFF; THE SPD IS HANDLING BABIUCH'S
SCHEDULE.
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